



## AIR QUALITY

An air quality conformity analysis will be done for Phase 2 of the NSC. The purpose of the conformity analysis is to determine if the proposed project will create any violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Air Act and its amendments. In order to perform the conformity analysis, a methodology was developed by the Washington State Department of Transportation in consultation with the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), the U.S. EPA, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA). It has been found by the consulting agencies to be consistent with federal regulations and guidelines that govern the air quality modeling of carbon monoxide emissions from motor vehicles.

In summary, the protocol uses the latest local air quality data, in conjunction with federally approved transportation air quality models, in order to determine if the proposed project will create any violations of the air quality standards. This is accomplished by using travel demand models to estimate future traffic conditions at either existing or newly constructed intersections. Air quality models are then used to estimate if the traffic conditions, in relation to the design of the intersection, may result in a violation of air quality standards. The protocol also helps identify intersections where air quality may be affected by the construction of the NSC Phase 2. Those locations are then subjected to more rigorous scrutiny.

If the project does not cause any air quality violations, as demonstrated by the traffic and air quality models, the project is said to conform to the federal requirements for air quality. In the event the proposed project causes a violation of those standards, a solution must be developed which will completely correct the violation in order for the project to move forward.

It must be noted that air quality review of the NSC Phase 2 project will be an on-going process. As portions of the Phase 2 project proceed from design to construction, they will be analyzed again for air quality conformity. In this way, changing conditions, as well as the best available data, can always be taken into consideration to ensure air quality is not compromised by the project.